



The Launch of Egypt's National Human Rights Strategy

September 2021



President Sisi announces 2022 as *The Year of Civil Society*

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UN Human Rights Council President, Nazhat Khan applauds Egyptian Commitment: "This is an important step in protecting the human rights of all Egyptians."

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- ▶ The National Human Rights Strategy (NHRS) is the first of its kind to adopt a comprehensive approach to advance human rights in Egypt.
- ▶ The NHRS was drafted through an extensive interagency consultation process that lasted almost 2 years and included relevant ministries, numerous civil society organizations, the National Human Rights Council, human rights experts, and the Human Rights Committee of Egypt's House of Representatives. It was led by the Supreme Standing Committee for Human Rights (SSCHR) chaired by Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- ▶ The NHRS has set a five-year timeline to strengthen human rights in Egypt by implementing over 75 targets through executive, legislative and educational reforms. The SSCHR will issue an annual report to track and evaluate progress.
- ▶ President Sisi announced 2022 as *The Year of Civil Society* and emphasized the need for greater partnership between government and civil society organizations to protect human rights in Egypt.
- ▶ Ambassador Nazhat Khan, President of the UN Human Rights Council, commended Egypt "for this important step to promote and protect human rights of all people in Egypt...and to translate aspirations, words and commitments into concrete actions."

Four Complementary Focus Areas of the Strategy



Implementation: Tracking of Target Results

The implementation of Egypt's human rights strategy will rely on making progress across legislative, executive, and educational reform priorities.



NHRS: The Four Pillars & Annual Progress Report on Target Results

The NHRS comprises four complementary pillars. Each pillar addresses strengths and opportunities, challenges, and target results. Successful implementation of the targeted results requires achieving progress on three parallel tracks, legislative, institutional, and human rights education and capacity building. Additional information on each pillar can be found in the **full report**.

5 Year



implementation timeline and annual progress reports.

75+

targets in civil, political, economic and cultural rights.



100+

independent experts from ministries, and civil society organizations.



Pillar 1: Civil and Political Rights

Target Results

- Promote the rights of citizens to join and form political parties.
- Enhance awareness of citizens rights to join and form NGOs as well as increase partnerships between government entities and NGOs.
- Increase citizens' understanding of the right to public assembly.
- Strengthen labor unions collective bargaining, promote the right to join unions and increase union participation in economic policy development.
- Reform pretrial detention regulations.
- Introduce whistleblower and victim protection laws in accordance with the Constitution.
- Protect the right to free media.
- Promote the right to religious freedom and belief.
- Expand investment in restoration of religious heritage sites and facilities.

Pillar 2: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Target Results

- Complete the "100M Health Initiative" to fulfill the constitutional right to universal health access.
- Invest/upgrade all healthcare facilities nationwide.
- Amend environmental legislation to increase penalties for breaking environmental laws.
- Expand number of schools to ensure right to universal education.
- Reduce illiteracy through investments in specialized programs across Egypt.
- Strengthen health and safety regulations for workers
- Enforce fair wages and arbitration mechanisms to address inequalities.
- Expand social security and the "Solidarity and Dignity" family subsidy programs.
- Increase number of civil society organizations involved in agriculture and food safety efforts.

Pillar 3: Rights of Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities, Youth and Elderly

Target Results

- Increase awareness of constitutional rights of women within government, private sector and civil society.
- Continue to support women's political participation.
- Introduce laws to protect women's rights to work, equal pay, safety, paid maternity leave, and non-discrimination in access to loans.
- Ensure women's rights to reproductive health and family planning.
- Expand protection for women against all forms of violence and harmful practices.
- Protect rights of people with disabilities.
- New legislation to enhance the rights of the elderly.
- Invest in resources for children to increase access to education, healthcare and free school feeding programs.
- Expand girls' education and healthcare programs.

Pillar 4: Human Rights Education and Capacity Building

Target Results

- Increase human rights training and awareness nationwide.
- Partner with private sector and civil society to enhance societal awareness of human rights principles and values.
- Provide specialized human rights training for police and law enforcement.
- Launch human rights media campaigns to increase awareness of human rights and relevant legislation.
- Introduce human rights curriculum into the educational system.
- Provide specialized human rights training for police and law enforcement.
- Expand human rights training for judicial authorities.
- Invest in human rights capacity building and training for governorates.